

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

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October 28, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Local Government Officials
Members of the General Public

FROM: Lucetta Dunn
Director

SUBJECT: Development and Certification of Universal Design Checklist

Assembly Bill 1400 (Chapter 648 of Statutes of 2003) adopted Section 17959.6 of the Health & Safety Code. This law requires California builders constructing new for-sale residential units to provide a "checklist" of universal accessibility features to potential purchasers of a home. The Department of Housing and Community Development has sought and considered information regarding universal design from various individuals and organizations with interests in universal design and its use. The Department also provided opportunities for public comment on the draft checklist in the three public hearings conducted with respect to the proposed voluntary model universal design ordinance.

The Department's goals in developing the model universal design checklist included addressing the needs and concerns of all affected entities, including those of persons with disabilities, local government officials, and the homebuilding industry. The statute also specified a number of specific items required to be included in the checklist. I believe that the attached model checklist will provide specificity to the selection and development process by ensuring clarity for both the homebuilder and the homebuyer.

Having carefully considered all relevant information and comments to the Department during the model checklist development, I hereby certify the attached "Model Universal Design Checklist", dated October 28, 2005, as that which may be used voluntarily in substantially the same form by any homebuilder, pursuant to section 17959.6 of the Health and Safety Code. The requirement to begin providing the checklists to prospective purchasers, and the date that local government enforcement can be initiated; will be on January 26, 2006.